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Legislative Digest

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

J.C. WATTS, JR.
CHAIRMAN
4th District, Oklahoma

*Reforming Washington
Securing America's Future*

Week of June 12, 2000

Vol. XXIX, #16, June 12, 2000

Monday, June 12

*The House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No votes before 6:00)*

**** Seven Suspensions**

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H.R. 3995	D.C. Receivership Accountability Act of 2000.....p.6
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Continuation of floor debate:

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Tuesday, June 13

The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour and 10:00 p.m. for Legislative Business

**** Bills Subject to a rule**

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**** Three Suspensions**

H.J. Res. 101	Recognizing the 225th Birthday of the U.S. Army.....p.10
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**** Bills Subject to a rule**

H.R. 4578 FY 2001 Department of the Interior Appropriations Act.....p.13

Wednesday, June 14 and Thursday, June 15

On Wednesday and Thursday the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Subject to a rule

⇒H.R. ____ FY 2001 Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act.....p.x
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Eric Hultman: *Managing Editor*
 Brendan Shields: *Senior Legislative Analyst*

Courtney Haller, Jennifer Lord
 & Greg Mesack: *Legislative Analysts*

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Digest**

Requiring the Comptroller General of the United States to Conduct a Comprehensive Fraud Audit of the Department of Education

H.R. 4079

Committee on Education and the Workforce
No House Report Filed
Introduced by Mr. Hoekstra on March 23, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 4079 under suspension of the rules on Monday, June 12, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 4079 requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a wide-ranging fraud audit of the Department of Education. Within six months after the date of the enactment of the bill, the Comptroller General will conduct a careful review and submit a report relating the results of the audit to the House Education and the Workforce Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

The Department of Education failed two audits in FY's 1998 and 1999, while at the same time instances of theft in the Department of Education are becoming more prevalent. One contract employee stole \$300,000 worth of computer equipment alone. In addition, an employee and co-worker received \$600,000 in falsely claimed overtime pay from the department. Furthermore, the Department of Education has issued over \$100 million in duplicate checks to grantees since October 1999.

Committee Action:

The Committee on Education and the Work Force reported the bill by voice vote on May 25, 2000.

A CBO estimate was not available at press time.



Sam Shaw, 226-2302

Higher Education Technical Amendments Act of 2000

H.R. 4504

Committee on Education and the Workforce

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. McKeon *et al.* on May 19, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 4504 on Monday, June 12, 2000 under suspension of the rules. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 4504 makes a number of changes in the Higher Education Act of 1998, some of which are substantive in nature and many others that are technical. Among the substantive changes are new programs to encourage students to enroll in higher education programs, a 45-day comment public comment period whenever the U.S. Department of Education proposes rules to carry out the Higher Education Act, a requirement that schools notify parents about their policies on investigating and notifying parents when a student is reported missing from school, a requirement that students convicted of drug charges be denied higher education financial aid, clarification of repayment terms for student loans and grants, notifying parents and students about the status of fire alarms and sprinklers in dorms, and whether anyone working at the school may have been charged or convicted of rape or other sexual crimes. The bill also provides loan forgiveness for low-paid (under \$30,000/year) public prosecutors and public defenders.

Background:

On October 7, 1998 the Higher Education Act was enacted into law and has provided students with reduced student loan rates and much-needed improvements in programs like Work-Study, Pell Grants and TRIO. The U.S. Department of Education has had two years to implement the new law and issue regulations and proposed rules. The Committee reviewed these final regulations and while concluding that much of the 1998 had been implemented by the Department consistent with the intent of Congress, there were a few areas where that intent was not adhered to: H.R. 4504 addresses those policy areas as well as making technical and conforming amendments to the 1998 Act.

Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was not available at press time. The Committee reported the bill by voice vote on May 25, 2000.

Eric Hultman, 226-2304

Recognizing the Importance of Strong Marriages and the Contributions that Community Marriage Policies Have Made to the Strength of Marriages

H. Res. 280

Committee on Education and the Workforce

No Report Filed

Submitted by Mr. Ehlers on August 5, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H. Res. 280 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, June 13, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H. Res. 280 resolves that the House of Representatives recognizes that strong marriages are important to the country. The bill praises over 80 communities that currently have voluntary community marriage policies. These policies encourage couples not to marry too young, to have a long engagement and seek out pre-marital counseling. The bill also encourages other communities to establish similar community marriage policies.

Committee Action:

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on August 5, 1999.



Jennifer Lord, 226-7860

Expressing the Sense of Congress that the States Should More Closely Regulate Interest Rates on Title Pawns and Loans

H. Con. Res. 312

Committee on Banking and Financial Services
Introduced by Mr. Shaw on April 13, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H. Con. Res. 312 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, June 6, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H. Con. Res. 312 expresses the sense of the Congress that states should more closely regulate title pawn transactions and forbid the imposition of high interest rates on title loans to consumers.

Title loan lenders make title loans and title pawns to consumers by attaining the consumer's automobile title as collateral. These loans are often offered at high rates of interest, some as high as 300 percent per year. Many borrowers are forced into deeper debt because of these exploitive lending practices and ignorance of applicable rates. Title loans and pawns prevent many consumers from holding jobs since default on the loan or pawn will result in repossession of their car resulting in the consumer's inability to get to and from work. This industry is rapidly expanding. Sixteen states have already taken measures to protect their citizens, which is consistent with traditional practice of U.S. laws against usurious financing rates and lending practices.

Committee Action:

The measure was not considered by a committee.



Sarah Buzby 226-2302

Providing For the Establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana

H.R. 3292

Committee on Resources

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Baker on November 10, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 3292 under suspension of the rules on Monday June 12, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 3292 establishes the Cat Island National Wildlife refuge on 9,477 acres of land in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The legislation will conserve and enhance wetlands; protect endangered species; promote fish and wildlife-oriented recreational activities; promote increased stewardship of natural resources through environmental education; and serve as a general wildlife management unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. H.R. 3292 permits the Secretary of the Interior to use additional statutory authority to conserve and develop wildlife, natural resources, water supplies, water control structures, outdoor recreational activities and interpretive education.

Cat Island, located 30 miles north of Baton Rouge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, supports one of the highest densities of old-growth bald cypress trees in the United States including the Nation's largest cypress tree, which is 17 feet wide with a circumference of 53 feet. It is one of the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi Valley that is still influenced by the natural flow of the river. Cat Island is an important habitat for several declining populations of songbirds and wintering waterfowl. Traditionally, Cat Island has been a popular area for hunting, fishing, bird watchers and photographers. It has several freshwater lakes that provide sport fishing and has large populations of bobcat, deer, mink, raccoon and turkey.

Committee Action:

The Committee on Resources reported the bill by voice vote on April 6, 2000.



Sarah Buzby 226-2302

District of Columbia Receivership Accountability Act of 2000

H.R. 3995

House Committee on Government Reform
No Report Filed
Introduced by Ms. Holmes Norton on March 15, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H. R. 3995 under suspension of the rules on Monday, June 12th, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 3995 establishes procedures governing the responsibilities of court-appointed receivers, who are people charged with administering the most troubled departments, offices, and agencies of the District of Columbia government. The bill requires agencies of the District of Columbia that are in receivership to follow certain budgeting, management, and procurement practices. The bill requires the receiver to submit budget estimates to the D.C. mayor and chief financial officer and to have those estimates reviewed by the D.C. City Council, though neither the mayor nor the council can alter the receiver's request. The measure also requires that the D.C. inspector general's office conduct an annual audit of all the agencies under receivership, and that the receivers use the D.C. procurement office to supply the agencies under receivership.

Background

Currently, four District agencies—Child and Family Services, the Commission on Mental Health Services, the Corrections Medical Receiver for the District of Columbia Jail, and the District of Columbia Housing Authority—are administered by court-appointed receivers, no longer operating under direct local government control since courts ruled that they showed extreme deficiencies in the delivery of expected services. In January a 23-month-old child, Brianna Blackmond, died due to blunt force trauma, while in the care of the District's child and family services, causing outrage and highlighting the need for reform of agencies under court ordered receivership.

Costs/Committee Action:

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3995 would have no impact on the federal budget.

The Committee on Government Reform reported the bill by voice vote on May 5, 2000.

Jennifer Lord and Greg Mesack, 226-7860

To Provide That the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 Shall Take Effect Upon the Date Such Act is Ratified by the Voters of the District of Columbia

H.R. 4387

House Government Reform Committee
No Report Filed
Introduced By Ms. Holmes Norton on May 4, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 4387 under suspension of the rules on Monday, June 12, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 4387 provides that the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 shall take effect upon the date that the Act is ratified by a majority of the registered qualified electors of the District of Columbia. The Act, to be voted upon by referendum, is a proposal to reform the structure of the District of Columbia Board of Education by reducing the board from 11 members to nine. Five members, including the president, would be elected and four would be appointed by the mayor. The Act also clearly defines the roles and the responsibilities of the school board and superintendent.

Committee Action:

This bill has not been considered by a House committee.



John DeStefano, 226-2302

Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce (E-SIGN) Act Conference Report S. 761

Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
H. Rept. 106-661
Introduced by Sen. Abraham on March 25, 1999

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider the conference report to S. 761 on Tuesday, June 13. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered anytime three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour and may not be amended. The Rules Committee will meet on Monday, June 12, at 5:00p.m. to grant a rule.

Conference Summary:

S. 761 will create an equivalence between a handwritten signature and an electronic signature and between paper records and electronic records. The bill assures that consumers in the electronic world will have the same rights they enjoy in the paper world. Moreover, existing consumer protection laws will remain unaffected. Further, consumers must first agree to enter electronic transactions and affirmatively consent to receiving electronic records. To ensure that consumers are able to access electronic records, there must be a reasonable demonstration that consumers can access the records for the consumer's consent to have effect. This provision will allow for flexibility so that a wide variety of technologies, techniques or business models may be used to determine a consumer's ability to access the electronic records.

States may enact their own electronic signature laws, either by adopting the Uniform Electronic Transaction Act or another similar law. To ensure nationwide uniformity, state laws, however, must be consistent with provisions of S.761 (including its technology neutrality provision).

Federal and state regulatory agencies are provided limited authority to interpret this Act with respect to existing statutes. Agencies may establish performance standards to assure accuracy and integrity of records that are required by law to be retained. Additionally, The Act includes a provision to establish a uniform national standard for the creation, recognition, and enforcement of an electronic note (a negotiable instrument) that relates to a loan secured by real property.

The effective date for this Act will be October 1, 2000 and the record retention provision becomes effective March 1, 2001. The Secretary of Commerce is directed to promote the use and acceptance, on an international basis, of electronic signatures and records. The Secretary is also directed to eliminate or reduce barriers to commerce in electronic signatures. An official CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

House/Senate Action:

The House passed its version (H.R. 1714) of the legislation on November 9, 1999, by 356-66 vote. The Senate passed S. 761 on November 19, 1999, by unanimous consent.

Additional Information:

To see how the House version (H.R. 1714) passed the House, see *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #33, November 5, 1999 and the *FloorPrep* for November 9, 1999.



Brendan Shields, 226-0378

Recognizing the 225th Birthday of the U.S. Army

H.J. Res. 101

Committee on Armed Services
No Report Filed
Introduced by Mr. Spence on June 8, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.J.Res. 101 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, June 13, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.J. Res. 101 expresses the appreciation of the American people to the U.S. Army and the soldiers who served in it for 225 years, and honors the valor, commitment, and sacrifice that Americans soldiers have displayed throughout the history of the Army. Additionally, the president is directed to issue a proclamation recognizing the 225th birthday of the U.S. Army and the dedicated service of the soldiers who have served in the Army and calls upon the people of the U.S. to observe that anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress authorized the establishment of the Continental Army. The collective expression of the pursuit of personal freedom that caused the authorization and organization of the Army led to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the codification of the new nation's basic principle and values in the Constitution. For the past 225 years, the Army's central mission has been to fight and win the nation's wars. The 172 battle streamers carried on the Army's flag are testament to the valor, commitment, and sacrifice of the brave soldiers who have served in the Army. The motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" is the creed by which the American soldier lives and serves.

Today's Army is the world's most capable and respected ground force. Future Army forces are being prepared to conduct quick, highly sophisticated operations anywhere, anytime. No matter what the cause, location, or magnitude of future conflicts, America can rely on its Army to produce well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated soldiers to carry out the missions entrusted to them.

Committee Action:

The bill was not considered by a committee.



Brendan Shields, 226-0378

Expressing the Sense of Congress Regarding the Benefits of Music Education

H.Con.Res. 266

Committee on Education and the Workforce
Introduced by Mr. McIntosh on March 6, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.Con.Res. 266 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, June 13, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.Con.Res. 266 express the sense of Congress that music education enhances intellectual development and enriches the academic environment for children of all ages and that music educators greatly contribute to the artistic, intellectual, and social development of American children, and play a key role in helping children to succeed in school.

There is a large and growing body of scientific research showing that children who receive music instruction perform better on spatial-temporal reasoning tests and proportional math problems and that music education instruction is an important component of a well-rounded academic program. Also, opportunities in music and the arts have enabled children with disabilities to participate more fully in school and community activities. Additionally, music and the arts can motivate at-risk students to stay in school and become active participants in the educational process.

It has also been found that comprehensive, sequential music instruction enhances early brain development and improves cognitive and communicative skills, self-discipline, and creativity. Music education also has strong benefits later in the educational life of students. According to the College Board, college-bound high school seniors in 1998 who received music instruction scored 53 points higher on the verbal portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 39 points higher on the math portion of the test than college-bound high school seniors with no music or arts instruction.

Committee Action:

The bill was not considered by a committee.



Brendan Shields, 226-0378

Debt Reduction Reconciliation Act of 2000

H.R. 4601

House Budget Committee

No Report Filed

Introduced by Mr. Fletcher on June 8th, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H. R. 4601 under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, June 13, 2000. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary:

H.R. 4601 authorizes that an amount equal to any increase in the FY2000 non-Social Security surplus be used to pay down the public debt.

Background:

This bill establishes an off-budget account in the U.S. Treasury, called the “Public Debt Reduction Payment Account” where excess funds can be placed to pay down the public debt. If the non-Social Security surplus projected in *The Economic and Budget Outlook: An Update* is higher than specified in the Congressional budget resolution, the increased amount will be automatically appropriated to the account, and the statutory debt limit will be reduced by an equivalent amount. Funds in the account can be used only to reduce the debt held by the public.

Under the bill, thirty days after the end of FY 2000 and FY 2001 the Treasury must report to Congress the amount of money that was deposited in the account and how the money was used to reduce the public debt. This information must be verified by the U.S. Comptroller General of the United States. Current legislation dictates that money left over at the end of the year must be used to pay down the debt. This bill appropriates the excess funds into the “Public Debt Reduction Payment Account” to ensure that the money will not be used throughout the year for any other purpose. This account will remain available for the use of future years, but the appropriation to the account applies only to excess funds from FY 2000.

Costs/Committee Action:

The Ways and Means Committee reported the bill by a vote of 32-3 on June 8, 2000.



Courtney Haller and Jennifer Lord, 226-6871

FY 2001 Interior Appropriations Act

H.R. 4578

Committee on Appropriations
H.Rept. 106-646
Submitted by Mr. Regula on June 1, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 4578 the week of June 12, 2000. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour and are subject to one motion to recommit. The Rules Committee has not scheduled a time to meet to consider a rule for H.R. 4578.

Highlights:

H.R. 4578 appropriates \$14.6 billion in new FY 2001 budget authority, (\$303.2 million less than last year and \$1.7 billion less than the president's request). Approximately half the bill's funding, \$7.3 billion, finances Interior Department programs to manage and study the nation's animal, plant, and mineral resources and support Indian programs. The balance of the measure's funds support other, non-Interior agencies that perform related functions. These include the Forest Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, conservation and fossil energy programs run by the Energy Department, and the Indian Health Service, as well as the Smithsonian Institution and similar cultural organizations. Specifically, the conference report provides:

- * \$1.7 billion for the National Park Service (NPS) (\$101.9 million less than last year and \$340 million less than the president's request). This amount includes \$1.4 billion for national park operations, a \$61.8 million increase over last year and \$28.5 million less than the president's request;
- * \$861.9 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service (\$13.2 million less than last year and \$264.7 million less than the president's request);
- * \$2.4 billion for the Indian Health Service (\$29.9 million more than funding enacted for FY 2000 and \$199.8 million less than the president's request);
- * \$75.2 million for Everglades restoration, including \$17 million for land acquisition;
- * \$1.9 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (\$11.8 million more than last year and \$320 million less than the president's request);
- * \$1.21 billion for the national forest system (\$59.6 million more than last year and \$79 million less than the president's request);
- * \$1.3 billion for the Department of Energy (\$112.6 million more than funding enacted for FY 2000

and \$177.9 million more than the president's request); and

* \$237.6 million for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, (\$372,000 more than last year and \$95.8 million less than the president's request). This includes \$98 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (\$372,000 more than last year's level and \$52 million less than the president's request) and \$115.3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (equal to funding for last year and \$34.7 million less than the president's request).

Sticking Points

Several issues are likely to become the subject of floor debate during consideration, including the following:

- * **Lands Legacy Initiative.** The president requested \$600 million to purchase lands for the Lands Legacy initiative. The program's goals are to (1) increase federal land acquisition for park conservation; (2) provide grants to states and localities to acquire land; (3) expand protection efforts for farm, forest, and range land, and perform resource restoration; (4) fund growth partnerships; and (5) expand funding for ocean and coastal protection.

H.R. 4578 provides \$164 million for land acquisition (\$20 million below funding levels enacted for FY 2000). The Appropriations Committee argues that maintenance needs in national parks should have precedence over new initiatives. The Democrats are expected to attempt to increase funding for the Lands Legacy Initiative during floor consideration.

- * **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Funding.** The bill currently allocates \$98 million in funding for the NEA (\$372,000 more than last year's level; the president requested \$150 million), which has historically been the subject of contentious floor debate. Critics of the agency argue that no federal money should go to subsidize culture, particularly "culture" that many taxpayers find obscene. In addition, opponents of NEA funding contend that the agency continues to thumb its nose at congressional attempts to impose common-sense standards of decency. Supporters of the NEA, on the other hand, believe that federal support of the arts is critical to the cultural well being of the nation. In addition, they argue that NEA funding increases citizen access to the arts, stimulates private arts contributions, and encourages artistic creativity.
- * **Recent National Monument Designations.** This provision prohibits the use of funds for lands managed under the national monument designation if they were designated since 1999. These areas may still be managed under their previous land management plan status. Funds cannot be used for design or planning under the national monument status. This includes areas north of the Grand Canyon (Grand Canyon-Parashant NM), and area in central Arizona (Agua Fria NM), California Coastal NM and Giant Sequoia NM (a Forest Service area). This would also apply to additional national monuments if they were designated this year.
- * **Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project.** This provision prevents funding to issue a record of decision or any policy implementing the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project unless a regulatory flexibility analysis is completed. This project started in 1993 and affects a huge area of the west (including 63 million acres of Forest Service and BLM-managed lands in 6 states (OR, WA, ID, MT, UT, WY). Earlier this month the Administration

finally released a draft environmental impact study (EIS) and economic analysis for this project. The Administration is trying to complete this project before the end of the term but without doing the required reg-flex analysis. The Congress has previously had to require additional economic analyses that delayed the project. The Committee is concerned that the project will expose itself to litigation by not complying with the requirements of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

- * **Limitation on Establishing a National Wildlife Refuge in the Yolo Bypass.** This provision bans the use of funds to establish a National Wildlife Refuge in the Yolo Bypass of California.

Provisions:

Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations, FY 2001					
Function	FY 2000 Level*	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)				
Department of Interior	\$7,302.7	\$8,405.9	\$7,263.2	-0.5%	-13.6%
Related Agencies	\$7,355.5	\$8,061.9	\$7,346.3	-0.1%	-8.9%
Mine Worker Benefit Fund	\$68.0				
Priority Land Acquisitions	\$197.5				
TOTALS	\$14,923.7	\$16,467.8	\$14,609.5	-2.1%	-11.3%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Title I - Department of the Interior

H.R. 4578 appropriates \$7.3 billion for the Department of the Interior (\$57.5 million less than funding levels enacted for FY 2000 and \$1.14 billion less than the president's request). The department's current jurisdiction includes the administration of nearly 500 million acres of federal land and trust responsibilities for 56 million acres of Indian lands. The department is responsible for conserving and developing mineral, water, fish, and wildlife resources as well as preserving and administering many of the nation's wild, scenic, historic areas, and funds Indian programs. The bill does not fund Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) activities within the Interior Department. BuRec is funded through the Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The measure authorizes \$1.26 billion for the BLM (\$29.7 million more than funding enacted for FY 2000 and \$97.8 million less than the president's request). BLM is responsible for managing, protecting, and developing a full range of natural resources, including minerals, timber, rangeland, and wilderness on about 264 million acres of the nation's public lands. The bureau oversees grazing on some 164 million acres of public rangeland by approximately 4.3 million head of livestock. It also manages over 150,000 miles of fisheries habitat, administers four million acres of commercial forestland and preserves, and ensures soil and watershed management.

Land and Resources Management. The bill allocates just over half of BLM's appropriation of \$674.6

million to the bureau's primary task of managing lands and resources. This represents an increase of \$30.4 million from FY 2000 and a decrease of \$40.6 million from the president's request.

Department of Interior Appropriations, FY 2001					
Appropriation Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)				
Bureau of Land Management	\$1,231.4	\$1,359.0	\$1,261.1	+2.4%	-7.2%
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$875.1	\$1,126.6	\$861.9	-1.5%	-23.5%
National Park Service	\$1,803.8	\$2,042.3	\$1,701.9	-5.7%	-16.7%
U.S. Geological Survey	\$813.4	\$895.4	\$816.7	+0.4%	-8.8%
Minerals Management Service	\$116.3	\$140.2	\$133.3	+14.6%	-4.9%
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforce.	\$291.7	\$309.2	\$295.6	+1.3%	-4.4%
Bureau of Indian Affairs	\$1,869.1	\$2,201.0	\$1,880.9	+0.6%	-14.5%
Departmental Offices	\$319.9	\$332.2	\$311.7	-2.6%	-6.2%
TOTALS	\$7,320.7	\$8,405.9	\$7,263.2	-0.8%	-13.6%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Wildland Fire Management. The measure appropriates \$292.2 million (\$1.2 million more than last year and \$5 million less than the president's request) for the wild land fire management account. Of the amount allocated, the measure provides \$9.3 million for renovating and building fire facilities. The bill also includes, in Title IV \$200 million as a FY 2000 emergency contingent supplemental appropriation to help with the current wild fire situation.

Central Hazardous Materials Fund. The bill appropriates \$10 million for BLM's central hazardous materials fund (\$45,000 more than last year and equal to the president's request). This fund finances remedial investigations, feasibility studies, and the cleanup of hazardous waste sites for which the Interior Department is liable.

BLM Construction. The measure allocates \$5.3 million to construct access roads on BLM lands (\$5.9 million less than funding enacted for FY 2000 and \$5.9 million less than the president's request). The amount allocated for this construction will be used for projects like the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming; Trona Pinnacles, California; and Amboy Crater, California.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). H.R. 4578 provides \$134.4 million (equal to the FY 2000 level and \$615,000 less than the president's request). PILT provides compensation to local governments for the loss of property tax revenues due to the presence of certain federal lands, and is designed to supplement other federal land receipt-sharing payments.

Land Acquisition. The bill provides \$19 million for BLM land acquisition (\$3.5 million more than funding enacted for FY 2000 and \$41.9 million less than the president's request). This sum includes \$15 million for specific projects, \$3 million for acquisition management activities, and \$1 million for emergency activities.

Oregon and California Grant Lands. The measure allocates \$100.5 million (\$1.7 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$3.8 million less than the president's request) to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain the revested lands in 18 Oregon and California land grant counties.

Range Improvements. H.R. 4578 provides an indefinite appropriation of not less than \$10 million derived from public land and grazing receipts, equal to the FY 2000 level and the president's request. Receipts are used for construction, new purchases, maintenance, and improvements on federal rangeland.

Service Charges, Deposits, and Forfeitures. The bill provides an indefinite appropriation of \$7.5 million (\$1.3 million less than FY 2000 funding levels and equal to the president's request) for service charges, deposits, and forfeitures. This account uses the revenues collected under specified sections of the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act to pay for administrative costs.

Other Provisions. The bill provides an indefinite appropriation of \$7.7 million in revenues collected under the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act to pay for administrative and other costs in connection with right-of-way applications, the adopt-a-horse program, and other expenses. The amount allocated is equal to FY 2000 funding levels and the president's request.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

H.R. 4578 appropriates \$861.9 million for the FWS (\$13.3 million less than in FY 2000 and \$264.7 million less than the president's request). The FWS's mission is to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife along with their habitats. The FWS manages 94 million acres encompassing 514 National Wildlife Refuges, 35 waterfowl production areas, and 50 coordination areas. The service also operates 65 National Fish Hatcheries and nine Fish Health Centers.

Resource Management. The measure appropriates \$731.4 million for resource management efforts (\$16.9 million more than in FY 2000 and \$30.5 million less than the president's request). Specific provisions include:

- * **Endangered Species.** The bill provides \$112.4 million for efforts to protect endangered species (\$4.1 million less than last year).
- * **Habitat Conservation.** The measure provides \$74.7 million for habitat conservation (\$3.3 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$1.1 million more than the president's request).
- * **Environmental Contaminants.** The measure allocates \$10.3 million to reduce environmental contaminants (\$308,000 more than in FY 2000 and \$1,000 less than the president's request).
- * **Refuges and Wildlife.** The bill appropriates \$345.1 million (\$21.9 million more than last year and \$11.7 million less than the president's request) to maintain and operate refuges, enforce protective regulations, and manage migratory bird populations. Of this amount, \$996,000 is recommended to continue the Salton Sea recovery program.
- * **Fisheries.** The bill provides \$69.8 million (\$15.5 million less than in FY 2000 and \$12.9

million less than the president's request) to operate fish hatcheries, manage fish and wildlife populations, and finance the Lower Snake River Compensation Fund.

- * **General Administration.** The bill provides \$119.1 million (\$2.8 million more than last year and \$4.2 million less than the president's request) for general expenses associated with operating the FWS's central and regional offices as well as various administrative support functions. This amount includes \$6 million for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

FWS Construction. H.R. 4578 appropriates \$48.4 million to construct and maintain FWS facilities (\$5.1 million less than in FY 2000 and \$4.2 million more than the president's request). This amount includes \$39.2 million for line item construction in various states.

Land Acquisition. The measure allocates \$30 million for FWS land acquisition in FY 2000 (\$20.5 million less than last year and \$81.6 million less than the president's request). This sum includes \$21.8 million for line item projects, \$250,000 for emergencies and hardships, and \$500,000 for exchanges, and \$7.5 million for acquisition management.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The bill appropriates \$23 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (equal to funding for FY 2000 and \$42 million less than the president's request). The fund provides grants to the states to conserve threatened and endangered species.

National Wildlife Refuge Fund. The bill provides \$10.4 million (\$300,000 less than FY 2000 and \$439,000 more than the president's request) to make payments to counties based on the fair-market value of FWS lands located within their jurisdiction.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. The measure allocates \$15.5 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (\$542,000 more than last year and \$14.5 million less than the president's request).

Multinational Species Conservation Fund. The bill provides \$2.4 million (\$609,000 less than the president's request and an equal amount to the FY 2000 level) for this account which consolidates funding for the African Elephant Conservation Fund, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund.

Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation Fund. The measure provides \$797,000 (equal to last year's level and \$3,000 less than the president's request) to provide grants to state agencies for wildlife and conservation appreciation projects.

National Park Service (NPS)

H.R. 4578 appropriates \$1.7 billion in overall funding for the National Park Service (\$101.9 million less than in FY 2000 and \$340.4 million less than the president's request). The NPS oversees 378 units encompassing more than 80 million acres.

In addition, the measure:

- * provides \$75 million to four Interior Department bureaus for continued funding for the science, research, construction and land acquisition necessary for the environmental restoration of the Everglades National Park in Florida;

Operation of National Parks. H.R. 4578 appropriates \$1.4 billion in overall funding for the operation of national parks (\$61.9 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$28.5 million less than the president's request).

Recreation and Preservation. The measure allocates \$49.9 million to the recreation and preservation account (\$3.4 million less than in FY 2000 and \$18.7 million less than the president's request). This account funds outdoor recreation planning, preservation efforts for cultural and national heritage resources, and technical assistance to federal, state, and local agencies.

Historic Preservation Fund. The bill provides \$41.3 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (\$33.4 million less than the FY 2000 level and \$30.7 million less than the president's request) to support state historic preservation efforts. The total amount includes a decrease of \$3.4 million for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and level funding for the tribal grants and State historic preservation offices.

NPS Construction. H.R. 4578 allocates \$150 million for NPS construction (\$71.2 million less than in FY 2000 and \$30 million less than the president's request). Included in this funding is \$9 million dollars for water delivery modifications. This \$9 million is part of a total of \$75 million allocated for Everglades restoration projects.

Land Acquisition and State Assistance. The measure allocates \$65 million for NPS land acquisition (\$55 million less than in FY 2000 and \$103 million less than the president's request). This sum includes \$34.5 million for line item projects, \$5 million for inholdings, hardships, and exchanges, \$4.5 million for acquisition management, \$20 million for state conservation grants, and \$1 million for state grants administration.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

H.R. 4578 provides \$816.7 million for the USGS (\$3.3 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$78.7 million less than the president's request). Established in 1879, the USGS systematically and scientifically classifies public lands and examines geological structure and mineral resources. The agency serves as the federal government's largest earth-science research agency, the nation's largest civilian mapmaking agency, and the primary source of data on the nation's surface and ground water resources and the scientific understanding needed to support the sound management of the nation's biological resources.

Minerals Management Service (MMS)

H.R. 4578 provides \$133.3 million for the MMS (\$17 million more than in FY 2000 and \$6.9 million less than the president's request) for royalty collection and audit activities. This sum includes \$127.2 million for royalty management (\$17 million more than in FY 2000) and \$6.1 million for oil spill research (equal to both last year's level and the president's request). The central mission of the MMS is to collect, distribute, and audit revenues from mineral leases on federal and Indian lands. In FY 2001, the MMS expects to collect and distribute \$6.2 billion from over 80,000 leases. The MMS also maintains some responsibility

for oil spill research and offshore drilling certification, oil and gas leasing, and mineral resources on the continental shelf.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM)

H.R. 4578 allocates \$295.6 million for the OSM (\$3.9 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$13.6 million less than the president's request). The OSM regulates surface coal mining operations through its regulation and technology account to ensure that the environment is protected and land is adequately reclaimed once the mining is completed. The OSM also oversees state programs and provides grants to the states that maintain their own regulatory and reclamation programs. In addition, the OSM administers regulatory programs in states without their own programs. Included in the total OSM amount, the measure provides \$97.5 million for OSM regulation and technology (\$1.9 million more than FY 2000 and \$323,000 more than the president's request). Also allocated in the total OSM amount is \$197.9 million for abandoned mine reclamation funds, an increase of \$2 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$13.3 million less than the president's request. This amount includes \$8 million for the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

H.R. 4578 provides \$1.9 billion for the BIA (\$11.8 million more than last year and \$320.1 million less than the president's request). Established in 1824, the BIA delivers a wide array of government, community, and social services to more than one million Native Americans through 12 area offices and 83 agency offices. BIA also provides education programs through 118 day schools, 48 boarding schools, and 14 dormitories, and it administers over 46 million acres of tribally-owned land.

The vast majority of BIA funding—\$1.7 billion—supports program operations. This figure represents an increase of \$17.9 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$137.6 million less than the president's request. The measure also provides \$184.4 million for construction (\$13 million more than in FY 2000 and \$181.5 million less than the president requested) as well as \$34 million to settle Indian land and water claims (\$6.9 million less than in FY 2000 and equal to the president's request). Finally, the bill provides \$5 million for the Indian guaranteed loan program—equal to last year's level and \$1 million less than the president's request. In FY 1999, the Indian Land Consolidation Pilot account was funded under the BIA. In order to consolidate all trust reform activities, the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians now handles the account.

Departmental Offices

The measure appropriates a total of \$311.7 million (\$8.2 million less than the FY 2000 level and \$20.5 million less than the president's request) for departmental offices. Specifically, this amount funds the following programs.

- * **Office of Insular Affairs.** The bill allocates \$90.2 million (\$266,000 less than the FY 2000 level and \$4.2 million less than the president's request) to support various governmental projects and initiatives in Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands, as well as to assist in administering these territories. This sum includes \$20.7 million for the Compact Nations, including the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau (\$434,000 more than the FY 2000 level and \$200,000 more than the president's request).

- * **Salaries and Expenses.** The measure provides a total of \$125.8 million to fund salaries and expenses of various departments within the agency. Specifically, the measure allocates (1) \$62.4 million for departmental management (\$300,000 less than the FY 2000 level and \$2 million less than the president's request); (2) \$40.2 million for the Office of the Solicitor (equal to the FY 2000 amount and \$3.8 million less than the president's request); and (3) \$26.1 million for the Office of the Inspector General (equal to the FY 2000 amount and \$2.8 million less than the president's request).
- * **Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.** The bill provides \$82.4 million (\$7.6 million less than the FY 2000 level and \$200,000 less than the president's request) for the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. Of that amount, the bill provides \$80.4 million for program operations, support, and improvements, and \$2 million for executive direction.
- * **Indian Land Consolidation.** The bill provides \$5 million (the same as the FY 2000 level and \$7.5 million less than the president's request) for Indian land consolidation.
- * **Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund.** The measure allocates \$5.4 million (equal to last year's funding level and \$29,000 less than the president's request) for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund. Decreases below the president's request include \$5.4 million in damage assets. The fund helps provide the scientific basis for legal claims against responsible parties for the restoration of damaged natural resources.

Title II - Related Departments and Agencies

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Forest Service. H.R. 4578 provides \$2.7 billion for the Forest Service (\$97 million less than in FY 2000 and \$387 million less than the president's request). The Forest Service administers a wide variety of programs on 192 million acres of public lands across the country, including timber production, recreation, grazing, wildlife protection, forestry research, and soil and water conservation. More than 9,000 farmers and ranchers buy permits to graze livestock on 74 million acres of National Forest System land. The National Forest System includes 156 national forests, 20 national grasslands, four national monuments, and nine land utilization projects. The Forest Service is the only USDA agency funded entirely within the Interior appropriations bill. The measure funds the following programs within the Forest Service.

- * **National Forest System.** A majority of the service's funding-\$1.2 billion-is allocated to manage myriad resources that make up the National Forest System, including water, minerals, fish and wildlife, rangeland, forestland, access roads, and recreational facilities. (This amount is \$60 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$80 million less than the president's request). The bill restructures the NFS budget-consolidating some line items but maintaining major program elements.
- * **Forest and Rangeland Research.** The measure provides \$225 million (\$7.3 million more than last year and \$6 million less than the president's request) to conduct research through the network of six regional research and/or experimental stations, the National Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry.

Related Departments and Agencies, FY 2001					
Appropriation Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)				
Forest Service	\$2,819.9	\$3,110.1	\$2,723.4	-3.4%	-12.4%
Department of Energy (DOE)	\$1,226.4	\$1,161.1	\$1,339.0	+9.2%	+15.3%
Indian Health Service	\$2,390.7	\$2,620.4	\$2,420.6	+1.2%	-7.6%
Navajo and Hopi Relocation	\$8.0	\$15.0	\$8.0	0.0%	-46.7%
Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture & Arts Development	\$2.1	\$4.3	—	—	—
Smithsonian Institution	\$438.1	\$463.0	\$423.1	-3.4%	-8.6%
National Gallery of Art	\$67.6	\$78.9	\$70.2	+3.8%	-11.1%
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	\$33.9	\$34.0	\$33.9	0.0%	-0.4%
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	\$6.8	\$7.3	\$6.8	0.0%	-7.5%
National Endowment for the Arts	\$97.6	\$150.0	\$98.0	+0.4%	-34.7%
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$115.3	\$150.0	\$115.3	0.0%	-23.2%
Institute of Museum Services	\$24.3	\$33.4	\$24.3	0.0%	-27.2%
Commission of Fine Arts	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$1.0	0.0%	-5.3%
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs	\$7.0	\$7.0	\$7.0	0.0%	-0.4%
Council on Historic Preservation	\$3.0	\$3.2	\$3.0	0.0%	-6.3%
National Capital Planning Commission	\$6.3	\$6.2	\$6.3	0.0%	+1.5%
Holocaust Memorial Council	\$33.2	\$34.6	\$33.2	0.0%	-4.1%
Presidio Trust	\$44.3	\$33.4	\$33.4	-24.6%	0.0%
TOTALS	\$7,325.5	\$7,912.9	\$7,346.3	+0.3%	-7.2%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

- * **State and Private Forestry.** The bill provides \$197 million (\$5.6 million less than in FY 2000 and \$64 million less than the president's request) to fund cooperative programs with state and local governments, the forest industry, and private landowners. Of the amount allocated, the measure recommends \$99 million for cooperative forestry (\$14.7 million less than FY 2000 funding levels). Because of the limited resources available, funding provided under cooperative forestry has focused resources on federal technical assistance programs rather than the 600 percent increase requested by the president for conservation easement purchases through the U.S. with the forest legacy program. The funding also includes \$5 million to enhance the forest inventory and analysis (FIA) program.
- * **Wildland Fire Management.** The measure allocates \$614.3 million (\$3.6 million less than in FY 2000 and \$6 million less than the president's request) for fire protection and emergency firefighting efforts. The bill also includes, in Title IV \$150 million as a FY 2000 emergency contingent supplemental appropriation to help with the current wild fire situation.
- * **Reconstruction and Maintenance.** The bill provides \$424.5 million (\$12.4 million less than last year and \$448,000 less than the president's request) for the maintenance and

reconstruction of roads and trails. The total sum includes \$208 million for road maintenance and improvements (\$11.3 million less than in FY 2000 and \$9.5 million less than the president's request).

- * **Land Acquisition.** The measure provides \$50 million for Forest Service land acquisition. This sum includes \$38 million for line-item projects, \$8.5 million for acquisition management, \$1.5 million for cash equalization, \$1.5 million for emergencies and hardships, and \$500,000 for wilderness protection.

Finally, the measure provides (1) \$1.1 million to purchase environmentally sensitive lands in national forests; (2) \$234,000 to complete land exchanges; (3) \$3.3 million for the range betterment fund; and (4) \$92,000 for gifts, donations, and bequests for forest and rangeland research.

Department of Energy (DOE)

H.R. 4578 provides \$1.3 billion for DOE fossil energy research and development, energy conservation, and related programs (\$112.6 million more than in FY 2000 and \$177.9 million less than the president's request).

Clean Coal Technology. The bill defers \$67,000,000 in previously appropriated Clean Coal Technology budget authority until FY 2002 instead of a \$221 million deferral and a rescission of \$105 million as proposed by the Administration. However, the committee does not object to the use of up to \$14 million in available funds for administration of the program and continued support of the U.S./China Energy and Environmental Center.

Energy Resource, Supply and Efficiency. The bill combines the activities from the former Fossil Energy Research and Development account and the energy conservation account into the new energy resource, supply and efficiency account. The bill includes \$1,139,611,000 for this account, a \$25 million increase to the FY 2000 appropriation for these activities and \$84 million below the Administration request. Funding for the weatherization assistance program in this bill, in combination with the \$19 million provided as an advance appropriation in the House passed supplemental appropriations bill, results in an increase of \$4 million for the program in FY 2001.

Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves (NPOSR). H.R. 4578 allocates no new funding for the operation of NPOSR and agrees with the president's proposal to fund this program through the use of last year's available funding. The mission of the NPOSR program is (1) to explore, prospect, conserve, develop, and operate petroleum reserves in California, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah; (2) to produce the reserves at their maximum efficient rates; and (3) to use, store, sell, or otherwise dispose of production from the reserves.

Elk Hills School Lands Fund. The measure authorizes \$36 million for the Elk Hills School Lands Fund. This represents the second of seven payments to the fund, which was established as part of the sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve in California, in order to settle school lands claims by the state.

Economic Regulation. The measure provides \$2 million (equal to funding for FY 2000 level and \$8,000 less than the president's request) to fund the Office of Hearings and Appeals, which is responsible for DOE's adjudication processes (except for those that fall under FERC).

Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). The bill provides \$157 million for the SPR (\$1.4 million less than in FY 2000 and \$1 million less than the president's request). The SPR was created in 1975 to provide the United States with adequate strategic and economic protection against severe oil supply disruptions.

Energy Information Administration (EIA). H.R. 4578 provides \$72.4 million for the EIA (equal to funding for FY 2000 and \$2.6 million less than the president's request). The EIA is a quasi-independent agency within DOE, established to provide relevant, timely, and accurate energy information to the executive branch, Congress, state governments, and the public.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Indian Health Service (IHS). H.R. 4578 provides \$2.4 billion for IHS (\$29.9 million more than in FY 2000 and \$199.9 million less than the president's request). This sum includes \$336.4 million for Indian health care facilities (including sanitary sewer systems and solid waste disposal) (\$19.9 million more than in FY 2000 and \$13 million less than the president's request). Federal health services provided to Native Americans are based on the special relationship between Indian tribes and the U.S. government first established in the 1830s by the Supreme Court. The relationship has been reconfirmed by numerous treaties, statutes, and constitutional provisions. The IHS provides direct health care services at 37 hospitals, 60 health centers, 46 health stations, and three school health centers, and contracts with tribes to operate an additional 12 hospitals, 134 health centers, 233 health stations (including 158 Alaska village clinics), and four school health centers. The facilities account supplements this aid by financing the construction and renovation of hospitals, clinics, and sanitation systems in Native American communities.

Related Federal Agencies

Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation. H.R. 4578 provides \$8 million for the salaries and expenses of this office (equal to funding for FY 2000 and \$7 million below the president's request). This program is the result of a centuries-old dispute that President Chester A. Arthur unsuccessfully tried to resolve in 1882. Both the Navajo and Hopi tribes lay claim to land in the same area. When attempts at mediation failed in 1974, the district court in Arizona partitioned a joint-use area to be distributed equally between the two tribes. This requires the relocation of members of both tribes. The relocation office's mission is to relocate the remaining 455 Navajo households, of which 72 are living full-time on Hopi partitioned land. To date, 3,042 families have been relocated.

Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts. The measure provides no funding for the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development (IAIA) for which the president requested \$4.25 million. The institute received \$2.1 million for FY 2000. The committee believes it was understood that FY 2000 was the last year funding would be provided to the institute.

Smithsonian Institution. H.R. 4578 appropriates \$423.1 million for the Smithsonian Institution (\$15 million less than in FY 2000 and \$39.9 million less than the president's request). The Smithsonian was established by Congress in 1846 to carry out the trust included in James Smithson's will. In accordance with his instructions, it has been engaged for nearly 150 years in the "increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Around the turn of the century the Smithsonian began to receive federal appropriations to

support some of its activities. Last year, over 30 million people visited the Smithsonian museums, and millions more viewed the museums' traveling exhibitions. The institution is responsible for more than 100 million art objects, natural history specimens, and artifacts.

National Gallery of Art. The bill provides \$70.2 million (\$2.6 million more than last year and \$8.8 million less than the president's request) for the National Gallery of Art. The National Gallery is an endeavor between private individuals and the federal government to support the care and utilization of art collections, and funding supports the operation, protection, and maintenance of the gallery's buildings and grounds.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The bill provides \$33.9 million to operate and maintain the Kennedy Center (equal to last year's funding and \$129,000 less than the president's request. The bill also provides \$20 million) the same amount as both the FY 1999 level and the president's request-for construction purposes. The Kennedy Center is a living memorial to President Kennedy, consisting of over 1.5 million square feet of usable floor space and hosting an average of 10,000 visitors each day.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. H.R. 4578 provides \$6.8 million for the center (equal to last year's funding and \$547,000 less than the president's budget request). The center, which serves as a living memorial to President Wilson, is an international public policy institute for advanced study as well as a facility for discussions among scholars, public officials, journalists, and business leaders from across the country on major long-term national and international issues.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The bill allocates \$98 million to the endowment (\$372,000 more than FY 2000 level and \$52 million less than the president's request). The NEA's mission is to increase art awareness through several different programs, including folk art and dance programs. In recent years, the organization has come under fire for financing projects that many taxpayers and public officials consider obscene.

The measure continues certain restrictions imposed on the NEA enacted in last year's bill. Specifically, the bill (1) places a 15 percent cap on the amount of funds any one state can receive, excluding grants awarded to certain programs with a national focus; (2) emphasizes awarding grants that encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts, as well as grants that stress an educational component or enlist underserved areas; (3) allows the NEA to solicit and invest private funds; (4) prohibits subgranting and grants used for seasonal support to a group, unless the application is specific to the contents of the season, including identified programs and/or projects; and (5) prohibits grants to individuals, except for the Literature Fellowship, the National Heritage Fellowship, and the American Jazz Masters Fellowship.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The bill provides \$115.3 million for the NEH, including \$14.7 million for matching grants. (This sum is equal to the FY 2000 level and \$34.7 million less than the president's request). Funds appropriated to the NEH are used for media grants, museums, scholarly work, teacher training, and historical organizations.

Institute of Museum and Library Services. H.R. 4578 provides \$24.3 million for the institute (equal to last year's level and \$9.1 million less than the president's request). The institute provides operational and conservation support, and professional services to assist museums.

Commission of Fine Arts. The bill provides \$1 million (equal to funding for FY 2000 and \$57,000 less than the president's request) for salaries and expenses. Established in 1910, the commission advises the government on matters pertaining to the arts, and particularly to guide the architectural development of Washington, D.C. Over the years, the commission's scope has been expanded to include providing advice on plans for parks, public buildings, national monument locations, and developing public squares. The commission reviews approximately 500 projects annually. The bill specifically requires that no funding be used to continue the Georgetown architecture project.

National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs. The measure provides \$6.973 million (equal to last year's level and \$27,000 less than the president's request) to support artistic and cultural programs in Washington, D.C., where major arts institutions, unlike their counterparts in other cities, have little access to non-federal public funding, particularly for general operating support purposes.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. H.R. 4578 allocates \$3 million (equal to last year's level and \$200,000 less than the president's request). The council advises the president and Congress on preservation matters and offers consultation on historic properties threatened by federal action.

National Capital Planning Commission. The bill appropriates \$6.3 million for the commission (equal to FY 2000 and \$90,000 more than the president's request). The commission's major functions include (1) preparing and adopting the federal elements of the National Capital Comprehensive Plan (providing a framework for policy decisions regarding the physical development of Washington, D.C.); (2) preparing an annual report on a five-year projection of the Federal Capital Improvement Program; and (3) reviewing plans and proposals submitted to the commission regarding construction in the National Capital area.

United States Holocaust Memorial Council. The measure provides \$33.2 million (equal to funding for FY 2000 and \$1.4 million less than the president's request) to support the costs of operating the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Museum visitation has been roughly four times the projected level.

Presidio Trust. H.R. 4578 allocates \$33.4 million (\$10.9 million less than last year and equal to the president's request) to fund this new account. The trust is a wholly-owned government corporation established by the 1996 Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act to maintain and lease property at the Presidio in San Francisco.

Title III - General Provisions

H.R. 4578 includes a number of significant legislative provisions. They include:

- * **Prohibit Funding for "Clothing Optional" Signs in Cape Canaveral, Florida.** The measure prohibits Interior Appropriations funding to be used to finance clothing-optional area signs in Cape Canaveral;
- * **Limiting Payments for Contract Support Costs.** The measure limits past payments for contract support costs;
- * **Pedestrian Bridge Between Ellis Island and New Jersey.** The measure continues to limit funding for the construction of a pedestrian bridge between Ellis Island and New Jersey;

- * **AmeriCorps.** The bill prohibits agencies from funding any AmeriCorps activity unless it is funded through the VA/HUD appropriations bill. The president, as in past years, has proposed funding AmeriCorps projects at National Park Service sites, which would be paid for out of scarce National Park Service operating funds;
- * **Recreational Fees for Construction.** The bill prohibits the use of recreational fees in excess of \$500,000 for the construction of any permanent structure without approval from the Appropriations Committee;
- * **Pennsylvania Avenue Improvements.** The measure prohibits the use of funds to plan, design, or construct improvements to Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House without prior approval of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees;
- * **Buy America.** The bill restricts the expenditure of funds on foreign-made goods and services in compliance with the Buy America Act; and
- * **Recent National Monument designations.** This provision prohibits the use of funds for lands managed under the national monument designation if they were designated since 1999. These areas may still be managed under their previous land management plan status. Funds cannot be used for design or planning under the national monument status. This includes areas north of the Grand Canyon (Grand Canyon-Parashant NM, and area in central Arizona (Agua Fria NM), California Coastal NM and Giant Sequoia NM (a Forest Service area). This would also apply to additional national monuments if they were designated this year.
- * **Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project.** This provision prevents funding to issue a record of decision or any policy implementing the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project unless a regulatory flexibility analysis is completed. This project started in 1993 and affects a huge area of the west (including 63 million acres of Forest Service and BLM-managed lands in 6 states (OR, WA, ID, MT, UT, WY). Earlier this month the Administration finally released a draft EIS and economic analysis for this project. The Administration is trying to complete this project before the end of the term but without doing the required reg-flex analysis. The Congress has previously had to require additional economic analyses that delayed the project. The Committee is concerned that the project will expose itself to litigation by not complying with the requirements of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.
- * **Limitation on Establishing a National Wildlife Refuge in the Yolo Bypass.** This provision bans the use of funds to establish a National Wildlife Refuge in the Yolo Bypass of California.
- * **Man and Biosphere Program.** The measure prohibits funds in the bill from being used for Biosphere Reserves as part of the Man and Biosphere Program.

Cost/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The Appropriations Committee reported the bill by a vote of 31-22 on June 1, 2000.

Other Information:

“Appropriations for FY 2001: Interior and Related Agencies” *CRS Report RL30506*, June 6, 2000.



Courtney Haller, 226-6871

FY 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Act

H.R. 4461

Committee on Appropriations

H.Rept. 106-619

Submitted by Mr. Skeen on May 16, 2000

Floor Situation:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 4461 during the week of June 12th, 2000. The Rules committee will consider a rule during the course of the week. Additional information on the rule and amendments will be provided in a *FloorPrep* prior to floor consideration.

Highlights:

H.R. 4461 appropriates \$75.3 billion in new FY 2001 budget authority for agriculture programs, \$524 million less than last year and \$1.8 billion less than the president's request. The bulk of the mandatory spending goes toward (1) food stamps (\$21.2 billion), (2) the Food and Drug Administration (\$1.2 billion), (3) child nutrition programs (\$9.5 billion), (4) the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (\$1.7 billion), and (5) the supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC, \$4 billion).

In addition, the bill increases funding for Farm Service Agency salaries and expenses by \$34 million, for agriculture credit programs by \$1.4 billion, Rural Housing loan authorizations by \$484 million, and there is a new \$35 million increase through a Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

Background:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) carries out a wide variety of responsibilities through approximately 30 separate internal agencies staffed by some 100,000 employees. Agriculture appropriations fund agricultural research, marketing and export efforts, commodity price and income supports, production adjustment programs, crop and disaster insurance, subsidized farm loans, conservation activities, health and safety-related research and inspections, rural development programs, international food aid, domestic food programs (e.g., food stamps and school lunches), and the administrative expenses of operating the USDA. The funds appropriated to USDA represent about five percent of total federal government spending.

The 1996 Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act (*P.L. 104-127*), reauthorized and restructured existing farm programs over seven years to provide seven-year production and market-transition contracts to farmers in place of previously-offered crop subsidies. Additionally, FAIR reduced direct federal government management of farmland in exchange for allowing farm owners greater flexibility

to enroll their land in conservation programs.

Provisions:

FY 2001 Agriculture Appropriations					
Bill Title	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Title I--Agriculture Programs	\$35,436.3	\$34,740.3	\$34,484.0	-2.7%	-0.7%
Title II--Conservation Programs	\$804.2	\$878.0	\$812.8	+1.1%	-7.4%
Title III--Rural Economic and Community Development Prog.	\$2,187.5	\$2,587.6	\$2,350.7	+7.5%	-9.2%
Title IV--Domestic Food Prog.	\$35,044.1	\$36,264.7	\$35,230.4	+0.5%	-2.9%
Title V--Foreign Asst. Prog.	\$1,055.7	\$1,090.8	\$1,049.4	-0.6%	-3.8%
Title VI--Related Agencies	\$1,112.0	\$1,283.3	\$1,171.3	+5.3%	-8.7%
Title VII--General Provisions	\$2.3	\$0.0	\$4.0	+77.8%	—
Title VII--Emergency Appropriations	\$8,670.5	\$0.0	\$0.0	—	—
Committee Totals	\$84,312.5	\$76,844.6	\$75,102.5	-10.9%	-2.3%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Title I — Agriculture Programs

H.R. 4461 provides almost \$34.4 billion for agricultural programs in FY 2001, \$952 million less than FY 2000 and \$256 million less than the president's request.

Office of the Secretary

The bill appropriates \$2.8 million for the Agriculture Secretary, an increase of \$1,000 above the FY 2000 level and \$78,000 less than the president's request.

Executive Operations and Various Other Administrative Expenses

The bill appropriates \$124 million for various offices and administrative functions within USDA, including:

* \$6.4 million for the **Office of the Chief Economist**, which is equal to the FY 2000 level and \$2.2 million less than the president's request. The Chief Economist advises the Agriculture Secretary on the economic implications of USDA policies and programs and serves as the focal point for the nation's economic intelligence and analysis, risk assessment, and cost-benefit analysis related to domestic and international food and agriculture;

* \$11.7 million for the **National Appeals Division**, which is \$11,000 above the FY 2000 level and \$892,000 less than the president's request. The division conducts administrative hearings and reviews adverse program decisions;

Title I — Agricultural Programs					
Appropriations Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Office of the Secretary	\$15.4	\$2.9	\$2.8	-81.6%	-2.7%
Executive Operations	\$35.5	\$124.1	\$64.5	+81.7%	-48.0%
Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Formers	\$3.0	\$10.0	\$3.0	0.0%	-70.0%
Departmental Administration	\$34.7	\$40.7	\$34.7	0.0%	-14.8%
Office of Communications	\$8.1	\$9.0	\$8.1	0.0%	-9.9%
Office of Inspector General	\$65.1	\$70.2	\$65.1	0.0%	-7.3%
Office of General Counsel	\$29.2	\$32.9	\$29.2	0.0%	-11.2%
Office of the Assist. Sec. for Cong. Relations	\$3.6	\$3.8	\$3.7	+2.8%	-2.9%
Miscellaneous Offices	\$52.5	\$39.3	\$39.3	-25.1%	0.0%
USDA Buildings & Facilities	\$140.3	\$182.7	\$150.3	+7.1%	-17.7%
Haz. Waste Management	\$15.7	\$30.1	\$15.7	0.0%	-47.8%
Economic Research Service	\$65.4	\$55.4	\$66.4	+1.6%	+19.8%
Nat'l Agric. Statistics Service	\$99.3	\$100.6	\$100.9	+1.5%	+0.2%
Agricultural Research Service	\$830.4	\$894.3	\$850.4	+2.4%	-4.9%
CSREES	\$945.6	\$965.3	\$945.8	+0.0%	-2.0%
Office of Undersec. For Marketing and Reg.	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.6	0.0%	-2.7%
Agricultural Marketing Service	\$65.1	\$81.5	\$71.3	+9.4%	-12.6%
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	\$443.0	\$517.6	\$475.2	+7.3%	-8.2%
Grain Inspection Admin.	\$26.4	\$33.5	\$27.8	+5.2%	-17.1%
Office of Undersec. for Food Safety	\$0.4	\$0.6	\$0.4		
Food Safety & Inspection Svc.	\$649.1	\$688.2	\$673.8	+3.8%	-2.1%
Risk Management Agency	\$64.0	\$67.7	\$67.7	+5.8%	0.0%
Farm Service Agency	\$1,094.0	\$1,287.8	\$1,286.8	+17.6%	-0.1%
Office of Undersec. for Farm and Foreign Ag. Services	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.6	0.0%	0.0%
Support Services Bureau	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	—	0.0%
Agriculture Credit Insurance	\$296.2	\$455.0	\$455.0	+53.6%	0.0%
Federal Crop Insurance Corp.	\$710.9	\$1,727.7	\$1,727.7	+143.0%	0.0%
Commodity Credit Corp.	\$30,037.1	\$27,771.0	\$27,771.0	-7.5%	0.0%
Total, Title I Programs	\$35,436.3	\$34,740.3	\$34,484.0	-2.7%	-0.7%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

* \$6.6 million for the **Office of Budget and Program Analysis**, which is equal to the FY 2000 level and \$184,000 less than the president's request. The Office of Budget and Program Analysis directs the USDA's budgetary functions, analyzes program and resource issues, and coordinates preparing and processing regulations and legislative programs;

- * \$10 million, \$4 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$4.6 million less than the president's request, for the **Office of Chief Information Officer** to provide policy guidance, leadership, expertise, and direction in the department's information management and technology activities;
- * \$4.7 million, equal to the FY 2000 level and \$1.7 million less than the president's request, for the **Chief Financial Officer** to provide leadership and expertise in developing department and agency programs in financial management, accounting, travel, and performance;
- * \$25 million for a **common computing environment**, \$12 million more than FY 2000 and \$50 million below the president's request;
- * \$34.7 million for **departmental administration**, the same amount as FY 2000 and \$6 million below the president's request, to provide staff support to top policy officials and overall direction and coordination of the department. Such activities include department-wide programs for human resource management and emergency preparedness;
- * \$150 million for **agriculture buildings, facilities, and rental payments**, \$10 million more than FY 2000 and \$32.4 million below the president's request;
- * \$29 million for the **Office of the General Counsel**, equal to the FY 2000 level and \$3.6 million less than the president's request, for all legal work arising from USDA's activities;
- * \$65 million for the **Office of the Inspector General**, equal to last year's level and \$5.1 million less than the president's request, to direct audit and investigative activities within the USDA;
- * \$540,000 for the **Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics**, the same as FY 2000 and \$816,000 less than the president's request;
- * \$15.7 million, equal to FY 2000 and \$14 million below the president's request, for **hazardous waste management** on waste storage sites within USDA jurisdiction.

The bill also provides funds at approximately the same level as last year for several administrative programs, including: (1) \$613,000 for the Assistant Secretary for Administration; (2) \$560,000 for the Under Secretary for Food Safety; (3) \$8.1 million for the Office of Communications; (4) \$3.6 million for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to maintain liaison with Congress and the White House; (5) \$635,000 for the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs; (6) \$3 million for outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers; and (7) \$589,000 for the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

Economic Research Service (ERS)

The bill appropriates \$66.4 million for ERS, \$1 million more than FY 2000 and \$10.9 million more than the president's request. This includes money to research the effectiveness of the food stamp and WIC programs. ERS also provides economic and social science data and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

The bill provides \$100.8 million for NASS, \$1.5 million more than FY 2000 and \$236,000 above the president's request. NASS collects and publishes current agricultural statistics to help in making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions. Included in this amount is \$15 million for the Census of Agriculture, which collects and provides comprehensive data every five years on all aspects of the agricultural economy.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

The bill provides almost \$850.4 million for ARS, \$20 million more than FY 2000 and \$43.8 million less than the president's request. Created in 1953, ARS researches livestock, plant science, entomology, soil and water conservation, agricultural engineering utilization and development, and nutrition and consumer use. This account funds individual research projects, building maintenance costs for national research laboratories, and the salaries of ARS researchers. The bill also provides \$39.3 million for ARS buildings and facilities.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

The bill provides \$945.8 million for CSREES, \$236,000 more than FY 2000 and \$19,463 less than the president's request. CSREES was created in 1994 by merging the Cooperative State Research Service and the Extension Service. It works with university partners to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit individuals, communities, and the nation. Programs within the service are detailed below.

Research and Education. The bill appropriates \$477.5 million for CSREES research and education activities, \$16.6 million more than FY 2000 and \$4.3 million more than the president's request, to administer agriculture research and higher education carried out by the State Agriculture Experiment Stations.

Native American Institutions Endowment Fund. The bill provides \$7.1 million, 2.5 million more than the FY 2000 level and equal to the president's request, for the new Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, which supports student recruitment and retention, curriculum development, faculty preparation, and the purchase of scientific equipment at 29 tribally-owned land grant institutions. Each year, 60 percent of the interest from this endowment will be distributed among the land grant institutions on a pro rata basis (based on the Native American student count), and the remaining 40 percent will be distributed in equal shares to the institutions.

Extension Activities. The bill appropriates \$428.7 million for extension activities, \$4.5 million more than FY 2000 and \$504,000 more than the president's request. Extension activities provide instruction and demonstrations in agricultural and home economics and related subjects. The service also provides nutrition training to low-income families, 4-H Club work, and educational assistance such as community resource development.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

The bill appropriates \$475.2 million for APHIS, \$32.2 million more than FY 2000 and \$42.4 million less than the president's request. APHIS protects the nation's animal and plant resources from pests and disease by conducting inspections and quarantines at U.S. ports of entry, providing scientific and technical

services, and overseeing animal damage control programs.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

The bill provides \$71.2 million for AMS, \$6.1 million more than FY 2000 and \$10.2 million less than the president's request. Created in 1972, the AMS provides market news reports, develops quality grade standards, administers USDA's laboratory accreditation program, and advances orderly and efficient marketing, distribution, and transportation of products from the nation's farms. In addition, the bill prohibits the USDA from disallowing participation by farmer-owned cooperatives in the commodity purchase program.

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

The bill appropriates \$27.8 million for GIPSA, \$1.3 million less than the FY 2000 level and \$5.7 million under the president's request. GIPSA was created by the merger of the Federal Grain Inspection Service and the Packers and Stockyard Administration in 1994. It inspects, grades, and weighs various kinds of grain; grades dry beans, peas, and processed grain products; and monitors competition in order to protect producers, consumers, and industry from deceptive and fraudulent practices which affect meat and poultry prices.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

The bill provides \$673.7 million for FSIS, \$24.6 million more than FY 2000 and \$14.4 million below the president's request. Created in 1981, FSIS assures that meat, poultry, and egg products (domestic and foreign) meet federal quality, labeling, and packaging standards.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The bill appropriates \$1.2 billion for the Farm Service Agency, \$192 million more than FY 2000 and \$1 million under the president's request.

Created in 1994 by the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA) as the Consolidated Farm Service Agency, the name was shortened in 1995. FSA administers the commodity price support and production adjustment programs financed by the Commodity Credit Corporation, the warehouse examination function, several conservation programs (see Title II) formerly performed by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and farm and disaster assistance loans from the former Farmers Home Administration.

The agency also conducts the Dairy Indemnity Program, which receives \$450,000 for FY 2001. The Dairy Indemnity Program compensates dairy farmers and manufacturers who suffer losses from the removal of their milk from commercial markets due to product contamination by registered pesticides.

Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (ACIF)

The bill provides \$455 million—\$158 million more than FY 2000 and equal to the president's request—to support \$4.5 billion in loans to farmers and ranchers. This appropriation includes \$18 million in farm ownership loans, \$129 million in farm operating loans, and \$269 million for salaries and administrative

expenses. ACIF loans help producers (1) acquire, enlarge, and improve property; (2) purchase live-stock, feed, equipment, seed, fertilizer, and other supplies, (3) refinance their debts, (4) take steps to conserve soil and water, and (5) recover from natural disasters. ACIF also makes loans to Indian tribes to help them acquire lands within their reservation.

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The measure provides \$67.7 million, \$3.7 million more than FY 2000 and the same as the president's request, for the RMA. RMA manages program activities in support of the federal crop insurance program to provide actuarially sound crop insurance policies.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund

The bill provides \$1.7 billion for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund, \$1 billion more than FY 2000 and equal to the president's request. Through programs administered by the 1994 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA), insurable crop producers are eligible to receive a basic level of protection against catastrophic losses, which covers 50 percent of the normal yield at 55 percent of the expected price. Producers pay \$60 per policy, \$200 for all crops grown in a county, with a cap of \$600 per producer. Any producer who opts for catastrophic coverage may purchase additional insurance coverage at a subsidized rate. The federal crop insurance program is administered by the Risk Management Agency.

Most policies are sold and completely serviced through approved private insurance companies that are reinsured by USDA. The USDA absorbs a large percentage of the program losses, compensates the reinsured companies for a portion of their delivery expenses, and also subsidizes the premium paid by participating producers. Program losses and the premium subsidy are mandatory expenditures which are funded through the Federal Crop Insurance Fund. Because crop losses caused by natural disasters are impossible to predict, outlays of the fund are difficult to budget. Hence, the bill provides "such sums as are necessary" in the annual appropriations bill.

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)

The bill provides \$27 billion for the CCC, \$2.2 billion less than FY 2000 and equal to the president's request, to reimburse the CCC for net realized losses.

Created in 1933, the CCC is a government-owned entity for financing production adjustment programs, as well as price supports, for numerous commodities such as grains, cotton, milk, sugar, peanuts, wool, and tobacco. Its aim is to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices; assist in maintaining balance and adequate supply of such commodities; and facilitate their orderly distribution. The CCC serves as a funding mechanism for several USDA export subsidy programs, including the export enhancement program, export credit guarantees, and the market assistance program, and for an array of conservation programs, including the conservation reserve program, the wetlands reserve program, and the environmental qualities incentive program.

The CCC is managed by a board of directors appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, subject to general supervision and direction by the Agriculture Secretary. Because most of the CCC's

activities are mandatory spending programs, they do not require annual appropriations. The corporation borrows money from the Treasury to fund its operations. However, because total CCC outstanding borrowing cannot exceed \$30 billion, the annual appropriations bill usually contains funding to reimburse net realized losses (i.e., outlays) so the CCC does not exhaust its borrowing authority.

Title II — Conservation Programs

Title II — Conservation Programs					
Appropriation Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Office of the Undersecretary	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$0.7	0.0%	-2.5%
Natural Resources Cons. Ser	\$803.5	\$877.3	\$812.1	+1.1%	-7.4%
TOTALS	\$804.1	\$878.0	\$812.8	+1.1%	-7.4%
<small>Source: House Appropriations Committee</small>					

Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

The bill provides \$693,000, equal to the FY 2000 level and \$18,000 less than the president's request, to the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment to provide direction and coordination in carrying out laws concerning natural resources and the environment.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The bill provides \$812 million, \$8.6 million more than FY 2000 and \$65.1 million less than the president's request, for the NRCS. Created by the 1994 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA), NRCS combines the former Soil Conservation Service and three natural resource conservation cost-share programs previously run by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. It works together with conservation districts, watershed groups, and federal and state agencies to aid agricultural production on a sustained basis and reduce damage caused by floods, sedimentation, and pollution. Activities include the following programs:

Conservation Operations. The bill provides \$676.8 million to sustain agricultural productivity and protect and enhance the natural resource base, \$16 million more than FY 2000 and \$70 million less than the president's request.

Watershed Surveys and Planning. The bill provides \$10.8 million—\$500,000 more than FY 2000 and the president's request—to fund investigations and surveys of watersheds and other waterways.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. The bill provides \$83.4 million—\$8.2 million less than the FY 2000 level and equal to the president's request—to facilitate cooperation between the federal government and states to prevent erosion, flood-water, and sediment damage in watersheds, rivers, and streams and to further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water.

Resource Conservation and Development. The bill provides \$41 million—\$5.7 million more than FY

2000 and \$4.7 million over to the president's request—for conservation programs including Resource Conservation and Development Program, to assist local groups in conserving land and other resources.

Title III — Rural Economic and Community Development Programs

The 1994 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act (DAGRA) abolished several programs and agencies funded under this title in FY 1995, including the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Development Administration, and the Rural Electrification Administration, and replaced them with the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. The bill appropriates \$2.4 billion, \$220 million more than FY 2000 and \$179 million less than the president's request, for these accounts:

Title III — Farm and Rural Development Programs					
Appropriation Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Office of the Undersecretary	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.6	0.0%	-2.8%
Rural Community Advance.	\$693.6	\$762.5	\$775.8	+11.9%	+1.7%
Rural Housing Service	\$1,332.0	\$1,536.2	\$1,383.4	+3.9%	-9.9%
Rural Bus. Coop. Service	\$54.0	\$56.9	\$38.2	-29.2%	-32.8%
Rural Utilities Service	\$107.3	\$100.9	\$89.4	-16.7%	—
TOTALS	\$2,187.5	\$2,457.2	\$2,287.5	+4.6%	-6.9%
<small>Source: House Appropriations Committee</small>					

Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development

The bill appropriates \$588,000 for the under secretary, who provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws concerning the department's rural economic and community development activities. This amount is equal to the FY 2000 level and \$17,000 less than the president's request.

Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP)

The measure provides \$775 million—\$82 million more than FY 2000 and \$13 million more than the president's request—for the RCAP, which consolidates funding for various waste and water disposal programs, distributes grants to rural businesses and enterprises. The program was authorized by the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR). The bill allows state rural development directors to transfer up to 25 percent between projects, as long as such transfers do not result in more than 10 percent transferred nationally.

Rural Housing Service (RHS)

RHS was established in 1994. Its programs were previously administered by the Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Development Administration. The mission of the service is to improve the quality of

life in rural America by assisting rural residents and communities in obtaining adequate and affordable housing and access to needed community facilities. Amounts appropriated for specific RHS programs are discussed below.

Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account. The bill appropriates \$1.2 billion—the \$88.9 million more than FY 2000 and \$135 million less than the president’s request—to support \$5 billion in rural housing loans. This sum includes \$254 million in direct loan subsidies, \$7.4 million in guaranteed loan subsidies, and \$375.8 million for administrative expenses. Created in 1965, RHFP makes (1) rural housing loans to farm owners, owners of other real estate in rural areas, and long-term farm leaseholders to build, improve, alter, repair, or replace houses, barns, silos, and other essential buildings; (2) rental housing loans (which must be repaid within 30 years) to individuals, corporations, and associations which provide moderate-cost rental housing to the elderly; and (3) farm labor housing loans to farm owners and private organizations to provide modest living quarters for domestic farm labor. The program is limited to rural areas with populations less than 20,000.

Rental Assistance Program. The bill provides \$655.9 million—\$15.9 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$24.1 million less than the president’s request—to help low-income families living in RHS-financed rental and farm labor housing projects pay their rent. Tenants must contribute the higher of (1) 30 percent of their monthly adjusted income, (2) 10 percent of monthly income, or (3) designated housing payments from a welfare agency. The program makes direct payments to the project owner to cover the difference between this contribution and the approved rental rate.

Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants. The bill provides \$28 million for mutual and self-help housing grants, the same as FY 2000 and \$12 million less than the president’s request, for grants to local organizations under which groups of usually six to ten families build their own homes by mutually exchanging labor.

Rural Housing Assistance Grants. The bill provides \$39 million, \$12 million less than last year and equal to the president’s request, for rural housing grants for domestic farm labor, very low-income housing repair grants, rural housing preservation grants, compensation for construction defects, direct community facility loans, guaranteed community facility loans and community facility grants.

Rural Business-Cooperative Development Service (RB-CDS)

The bill provides \$38.2 million in overall funding for RB-CDS—\$15.7 million less than FY 2000 and \$18 million less than the president’s request—for FY 2001. RB-CDS was created in 1995. Its programs were previously administered through the Rural Development Administration and the Rural Electrification Administration. The service enhances the quality of life for all rural residents by assisting new and existing cooperatives and other businesses through partnership with rural communities.

Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account. The bill provides \$22.8 million—\$2.8 million more than FY 2000 and \$13.6 million lower than the president’s request. Loans go toward improving business, industry, community facilities, and employment opportunities and diversification of the economy in rural areas.

Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account. The bill provides \$3.9 million in direct subsidy to this account—\$458,000 more than FY 2000 and equal to the president’s—which supports \$15 million in zero-interest loans to electric and telecommunications borrowers to promote rural economic

development and job creation projects, including funding for feasibility studies, start-up costs, and other reasonable expenses for the purpose of fostering such development.

Rural Cooperative Development Grants. The measure provides \$6.5 million—\$500,000 more than FY 2000 and \$5 million less than the president’s request—for grants to improve economic conditions in rural areas.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

The RUS was created in 1994 by DAGRA to administer electric and telecommunications programs of the former Rural Electrification Administration as well as water and waste disposal programs of the former Rural Development Administration. The service’s objective is to improve the quality of life in rural America by administering its electric, telecommunications, and water and waste disposal programs in a service-oriented, forward looking, and financially responsible manner. The bill provides \$89 million overall, which is \$17.8 million less than FY 2000 and \$11.5 million less than the president’s request.

Rural Electrification and Telephone Loans Program Account. The bill provides \$64.3 million—\$18 million more than FY 2000 and \$4 million under the president’s request—to support \$2 billion in loans to maintain and expand electricity and telephone service in rural areas.

Rural Telephone Bank Program Account (RTB). The bill provides \$3 million for administrative expenses (equal to FY 2000 and the president’s request) and \$2.6 million in direct loan subsidies (\$700,000 less than last year, and equal to the president’s request) for the RTB. The bill provides for a \$175 million loan level.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants and Loans. The bill provides \$19.5 million—\$1.2 million less than FY 2000 and \$7.5 million less than the president’s request—for this program, which provides facilities and equipment to link rural education and medical facilities with urban facilities to provide better health care through technology.

Title IV — Domestic Food Programs

Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

The bill appropriates \$554,000, the same as FY 2000 and \$16,000 less than the president’s request, for this account within the Food Program Administration (FPA). The office provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws regarding food and consumer activities, and has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

The bill appropriates \$35.2 billion, \$186 million more than FY 2000 and \$1 billion less than the president’s request, for FNS in FY 2001. This includes \$116 million—\$5 million more than FY 2000 and \$12.1 million less than the president’s request—to pay the salaries and other administrative expenses involved in

administering the domestic food programs run by the FNS, as well as supporting the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Originally established in 1969, the Food Nutrition Service was renamed in 1994 pursuant to DAGRA. FNS-administered programs are described below.

Title IV — Domestic Food Programs					
Appropriation Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Office of the Under Sec.	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.6	0.0%	-2.8%
Child Nutrition Programs	\$9,554.0	\$9,546.1	\$9,535.0	-0.2%	-0.1%
Commodity Assistance	\$133.3	\$158.3	\$138.3	+3.8%	-12.6%
Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)	\$4,032.0	\$4,148.1	\$4,067.0	+0.9%	-2.0%
Food Stamp Program	\$21,071.8	\$22,132.0	\$21,232.0	+0.8%	-4.1%
Food Donation Program	\$141.1	\$151.1	\$141.1	0.0%	-6.6%
Food Program Admin.	\$111.4	\$128.6	\$116.4	+4.5%	-9.5%
TOTALS	\$35,044.1	\$36,264.7	\$35,230.4	+0.5%	-2.9%

Source: House Appropriations Committee

Child Nutrition Programs. The bill provides \$9.5 billion for child nutrition programs, which is \$18.9 million less than FY 2000 and \$11 million less than the president's request. This account includes the school breakfast and lunch programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Programs, summer food services, nutrition education and training programs and the Special Milk Program. In addition, the special milk program provides funding for milk service in schools, nonprofit child care centers, and camps which have no other federally-assisted food programs. The primary purpose of these programs is to improve the health and well-being of the nation's children and broaden markets for agricultural food commodities. Working through state agencies (in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam), FNS provides both cash and foodstuffs to ensure that children receive at least one hot, nutritious meal each day.

Food Stamp Program. The bill appropriates \$21.2 billion for the Food Stamp program, \$160 million more than FY 2000 and \$900 million less than the president's request. Established in 1964, this program is aimed at making more effective use of the nation's food supply and improving nutritional standards of needy persons and families by issuing assistance coupons which may use to purchase food in retail stores. All administrative costs associated with certifying recipients, issuing coupons, ensuring quality control, and holding hearings are shared by the federal government and the states on a 50-50 basis. Although food stamps is a mandatory entitlement program, it is subject to annual appropriations. That appropriation also includes a nutritional assistance block grant to Puerto Rico, authorized under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA; P.L. 97-35), which gives the commonwealth broad flexibility in establishing a food assistance program that is specifically tailored to the needs of its low-income households.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The bill provides \$4 billion for the WIC program, \$35 million more than FY 2000 but \$81.1 million less than the president's request. WIC safeguards the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk by providing food packages designed to supplement each participant's diet with food that are typically lacking. Delivery of supplemental foods may be done through health clinics, vouchers redeemable at retail food stores, or other approved methods which a cooperating

state health agency may select. In 1989, Congress enacted cost-containment measures to ensure that eligible participants would have access to these necessary services. It also established the WIC farmers' market nutrition program (FMNP) to (1) improve WIC participants' diets by providing them with coupons to purchase fresh foods, such as fruits and vegetables, from farmers markets; and (2) increase the awareness and use of farmers' markets by low-income households. Funds for the WIC program are provided by direct annual appropriation.

Food Donations Programs. The bill provides \$141.1 million, equal to FY 2000 and \$10 million less than the president's request, for food distribution programs targeted at special at-risk populations, including the elderly, needy individuals in the Pacific Island Territories, and Indians living on or near reservations who choose not to receive food stamps. Funding for the operation of this program, also known as Meals on Wheels, is contained in the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill.

Commodity Assistance Program (CAP). The bill provides \$138 million, \$5 million more than FY 2000 and \$20 million less than the president's request for CAP. This account funds the Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides supplemental foods to infants and children up to age six, and to pregnant, post-partum, and breast-feeding women with low incomes who reside in approved areas and administrative expenses for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides commodities and grant funds to state agencies to assist in the cost of storing and distributing donated commodities to needy individuals.

Title V — Foreign Assistance and Related Programs

The bill provides \$1 billion for foreign assistance and related programs, \$6.3 million less than FY 2000 and \$41.4 million less than the president's request.

Title V — Foreign Assistance And Related Programs					
Appropriation Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)		(in millions)		
Foreign Agricultural Service	\$113.5	\$117.9	\$113.5	0.0%	-3.7%
Public Law 480 Food for Peace	\$942.7	\$973.4	\$936.4	-0.7%	-3.8%
CCC Export Loans Program Account	\$3.8	\$3.8	\$3.8	0.0%	0.0%
TOTALS	\$1,059.9	\$1,095.0	\$1,053.6	-0.6%	-3.8%
<small>Source: House Appropriations Committee</small>					

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

The bill appropriates \$113 million for FAS, equal to FY 2000 and \$4.4 million under the president's request. FAS helps U.S. agricultural interests maintain and expand foreign markets through special export programs and by securing international trade conditions that are favorable to American products. It main-

tains a worldwide intelligence and reporting service that provides important information on foreign agricultural policies and market conditions, and coordinates, plans, and directs the USDA’s programs in international development and technical cooperation in food and agriculture.

Public Law 480 (Food for Peace) Programs

The measure appropriates \$980 million—\$4 million more than FY 2000 and \$37 million less than the president’s request—for the three main programs under *P.L. 480*, which serve as the primary means for the U.S. provision of food assistance overseas. The bill allots:

- * \$159 million in direct loans and \$20 million for ocean freight differential costs for Title I, which provides food commercially under long-term, low-interest loan terms;
- * \$800 million for grants under Title II, which provides food aid for humanitarian relief through private voluntary organizations or through multilateral organizations like the World Food Program. This funding is equal to FY 2000 level and \$37 million less than the president’s request; and

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Export Loans

The bill provides \$3.8 million—equal to FY 2000 and the president’s request—for the CCC to guarantee commercial loans to finance U.S. agricultural export sales. Funds in this account are used to cover the lifetime subsidy cost associated with these commitments in 2000 and beyond, as well as administrative expenses.

Title VI — FDA and Related Agencies

The bill provides roughly \$1.1 billion for the FDA and related agencies, \$59 million more than FY 2000 and \$112 million less than the president’s request.

Title VI — Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration					
Appropriation Account	FY 2000 Level	President's Request	FY 2001 Proposal	% Change from Last Year	% Change from Request
	(in millions)				
Food and Drug Administration	\$1,049.0	\$1,211.3	\$1,102.3	+5.1%	-9.0%
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	\$63.0	\$72.0	\$69.0	+9.5%	-4.2%
TOTALS	\$1,112.0	\$1,283.3	\$1,171.3	+5.3%	-8.7%
Source: House Appropriations Committee					

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The bill appropriates \$1.1 billion for the FDA, \$53 million more than FY 2000 and \$109 million less than the president’s request. The FDA, which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), ensures that (1) food is safe and wholesome, (2) human and animal drugs, biological products, and medical

devices are safe and effective, and (3) radiological products and use procedures do not result in unnecessary exposure to radiation. Through its regulation of food, FDA protects and promotes the health of nearly every American by monitoring the food industry to safeguard against contamination by dangerous bacteria, molds, and other natural and man-made toxins, and by regulating the safe use of veterinary drugs and feed additives to protect consumers against hazardous drug residues or by products that may remain in meat. FDA also assures that the consumers are not victimized by adulteration, promotes informative labeling to assist consumers in choosing foods, and examines imported foods to ensure that they meet the same standards as domestic products.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)

The bill provides \$69 million to the CFTC, \$6 million more than FY 2000 and \$3 million less than the president's request. The commission promotes the economic utility of futures and options markets for agricultural products and regulates the commodity futures industry and other commodities by increasing their efficiency, ensuring their integrity, and protecting participants against abusive trade practices.

Farm Credit Administration (FCA)

The measure allows \$36.8 million for the FCA in FY 2001, \$1 million more than FY 2000. The president requested no funding for this program. FCA is responsible for regulating, supervising, and examining the institutions of the Farm Credit System. These activities provide short- and long- term credit to our nation's farmers, ranchers, and producers of aquatic products.

Title VII — General Provisions

The bill includes several general provisions that were included in last year's appropriation. This includes \$4 million for hunger fellowships, \$2 million more than last year, and \$115 million for apple and potato loss assistance. The president requested no funds for these programs.

The bill also contains an amendment, adopted in committee, that exempts food and medicine from unilateral trade sanctions. This enables U.S. producers to sell food and medicine to countries like North Korea, Libya and Cuba. The amendment, proposed by Mr. Nethercutt, also contains language that prevents the president from making any further food or medicinal sanctions without congressional approval.

Costs/Committee Action:

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

The Appropriations Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote on May 10, 2000.



Jennifer Lord, 226-7860